

PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS CHARITY WELL UNDER WAY

Tons of Good Things to Eat Secured by Nobles of Mystic Shrine.

The work of preparation for one of the greatest and most picturesque of the Christmas charities is now well under way by the Nobles of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine. The National Rifles Armory has been secured, and contracts have been entered into for tons of candy, wagon loads of nuts, children's stockings by the gross, and provisions of all kinds.

This year, as on previous occasions, the practical as well as the picturesque features of the holiday will be observed in spending the thousands of dollars that have been appropriated for this purpose. Along the line of the practical fifteen hundred or more heavily loaded baskets of provisions will be sent to the persons whom the nobles have found to be worthy and needy.

Following the completion of this work on Christmas morning the doors of the big hall will be thrown open to every poor child in the city who will receive from the hands of Chief Santa Claus G. Hector Clemes and his corps of assistants the products of the Yuletide tree. These will include for each a pair of brand new warm stockings, a box of candy, and a bag of nuts. There is no limit to the number of children who may be invited, as an abundant supply of good things will be provided for all who may come.

Not a Charity Organization.

Almas Temple is composed of over eleven hundred prominent business and professional men of the city. It is not a charity organization. Their first organized effort to bring cheer to worthy homes on Christmas Day was made in 1894. A few of the members of the organization quietly arranged to provide for a limited number of deserving families in a small way. When the good they had accomplished and the pleasure they had derived from their work became generally known among the other members regret was expressed that all had not been given the opportunity of participating.

The following year the work was taken up by the organization as a whole. Each year since then the festival has been on a larger scale, and it is the purpose of the members to make the coming celebration the greatest, not only in the history of the organization, but of the city.

The work of preparation for this year began last summer, when the Temple gave a big excursion to Chesapeake Beach. The gross proceeds of the enterprise were taken as a nucleus of a fund that has since grown by individual subscriptions. Frank K. Raymond, potentate of the Temple, has been particularly energetic in preparing for the coming Christmas festival. Some months ago he appointed Thomas P. Morgan chairman of the committee on decorations; Thomas B. Walker, chairman, and Charles W. Brown (No. 5), vice chairman of the committee. In charge of the preparation and distribution of baskets; and Charles Jacobson, chairman; Charles E. Wood, G. Hector Clemes, Eugene Cochran, Emil C. Schafer and John D. Frazee, a committee in charge of the candy tree.

Circular Sent Out.

Today a copy of a communication, of which the following is a part, will be mailed to each noble of the Temple: "The Christmas season is upon us once again. It is a season which should make glad the heart of every Shriner, not because, perchance, Allah has prospered him during the year, but because it is a season when it is customary among the members of our order to remember the poor who are with us all ways, and we are taught in the Sacred Writings that it is more blessed to give than to receive. What greater satisfaction can a man feel than to know that he has relieved the distress of a deserving fellow-man and has ministered unto the wants of unfortunate women and little children who may in nowise be responsible for the needy condition in which they too often find themselves. "Inclosed you will find a card containing blanks for three names of deserving families, which must be sent in not later than the 18th inst. Do not send a name unless you have fully investigated the case. It has happened more than once in the past that names have been sent in of families who were not in need, and who did not receive kindly the well-meant intention on our part to relieve them. The cards will be preserved, and in the event that anything of the kind occurs the noble signing the card must be held responsible for such unfortunate mistake. As is intimated in this last paragraph, this holding strictly to account all nobles who may hand in the names of persons to whom baskets should be sent is rendered necessary as a result of the practical joker. The temptation in the past has at times proved irresistible for certain jovial fellows to hand in the name of some friend who failed to see the joke of having a charity basket delivered at his door. It is thought the system of accountability devised by Potentate Raymond will obviate any such embarrassing incidents as have at times marked these distributions. It is thought that many of these cards will be returned by December 15, and the subcommittee that has been appointed by Chairman Walker will meet that evening in the offices of Mr. Raymond, in the Bond Building, for the clerical work incident to the undertaking. The meetings will continue each evening until the work is completed. At these meetings the names that have been handed in on the cards will be transcribed to shipping tags that are to be tied to the baskets when they are made up. These tags bear the "Christmas greeting of Almas Temple, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine."

When all of these tags are prepared they will be assorted, first as to the sections of the city in which the people reside, and afterward according to the wagon routes laid out for delivery. A bundle of tags will be provided for each of the wagons that will start out Christmas morning.

Each of the baskets will weigh about fifty pounds, and, in addition to a serviceable basket for each person, will contain a sack of flour, a pound and a half of coffee, two pounds of sugar, two pounds of beans, a large can of pork and beans with tomato sauce, a peck of potatoes and turnips, two pounds of rice, a loaf of bread and a ten-pound ham. All of the Nobles of the Shrine have been summoned to present themselves at the National Rifles Armory at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of December 24 for this work. They will meet again at 6 o'clock the following morning for the purpose of placing the tags on the baskets and seeing to their distribution.

The work of distributing these 1,500 baskets is no inconsiderable work in itself. By 7 o'clock Christmas morning there will be lined up in front of the armory about seventy-five wagons of all kinds and sorts, from the immense express wagons of the Knox Company to the delivery wagons of the merchants. The use of these teams, wagons, and their drivers will be donated, and no expense whatever will attend the distribution. The baskets will be hurried away on their missions of gladness with a noble upon each wagon.

Children's Christmas Tree.

The crowning feature of the day will be the children's Christmas candy-tree presided over by Santa-Claus-in-Chief, G. Hector Clemes. This Santa Claus is said to be a respecter of union labor and for fear they will charge him with working over time he has arranged to bring with him a sufficient number of his ilk from Reindeerland to give personal attention to every child that shall seek his jovial cheer and bask in the good things that he will dispense.

Chairman Jacobson has endeavored to secure a promise from Chief Moore of the Weather Bureau to furnish a covering of snow on the ground to permit Santa Claus to come down in his sleigh, but has failed to secure the promise. Mr. Moore, it is quietly rumored, declined to take so rash a step unless the energetic chairman and his assistants would agree to place in each stocking a "black diamond" of at least several tons weight. He explained that with cold weather for their accommodation they could do no less than to provide a nucleus of that stock which might some day keep the recipients warm. Chairman Jacobson, acting as advance man for Santa Claus, reminded Mr. Moore that the stockings to be distributed were clean new stockings, and he would not take the responsibility of soiling them in that manner.

Wood to the Rescue.

The situation was developing serious phases, it is claimed, when Col. Charles E. Wood came to the rescue with his bright new automobile, the one that took first prize for decorations during the G. A. R. encampment. Colonel Wood declared that rather than see Santa Claus held up by the congestion of traffic incident to the unusual prosperity, and the inability of the runners of his sleigh to make time he would place his automobile at his service, and with a load of Santa Clauses and their packs guarantee to make a record-breaking trip that would make the fleet-footed Reindeer go out of the business.

Colonel Wood has enjoined the strictest secrecy as to his purpose, as he fears that despite the fact that he will operate over the housetops if Major Sylvester hears of the enterprise he will "tip off" the bicycle police and cause trouble under the speed ordinance. Major Sylvester will be well represented, however, as he will be present at the hall with a large detail of police to care for the little folks, line them up for entrance into the hall, and to preserve order generally. No tickets will be required for the children. Every child in the city that has not had a bounteous Christmas feast prepared for him at home is wanted.

GIVABLES.

We can merely hint at the vast resources of this establishment—of the many rich, beautiful and enduring gifts contained in these magnificent stocks. You must see them to appreciate their worthfulness and the reasonableness of their prices. Always glad to show you whether you buy or not.

2-piece guaranteed Carving Sets,	\$1
3 and 5-piece Carving Sets, in cases,	\$3.25 to \$15
Pocket Knives (in boxes),	25c to \$7.50
Guaranteed Razors,	\$1 to \$3
Handsome Scissor Cases,	\$2 to \$15
Manicure Sets, in cases,	\$3 to \$25
Desk Sets,	\$2.50 to \$7.50
Roller Skates,	50c to \$3.75
Barney & Berry Ice Skates,	60c to \$6
Tool Chests,	\$5 to \$25

—These chests are filled with guaranteed tools selected from our regular stock.

BARBER & ROSS,

11th and G Streets.

DISTRICT DEMANDS A FINANCIAL RECKONING

Commissioners Fear Taxation Will Reach Point of Confiscation and Appeal to Congress for Relief.

While there are a number of bills pending in Congress which are of vital importance to the District government, the Board of Commissioners is devoting its best efforts to induce the National Government to solve the question of supplying money to carry on the work of improvement without drawing on District revenues to such an extent that the various departments will be crippled. This is a question that has been discussed at length in the last annual report of the Commissioners, and one on which it is expected the Board will be invited to confer with the Senate and House committees on the District of Columbia.

The argument advanced by the District Commissioners on this question is embodied in their report. In preparing estimates for the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, the Commissioners acted on the principle adopted two years ago: First, that they should represent to Congress adequately the actual needs of the District, and second, that they should distinguish between "estimates for extraordinary projects of improvements, calling for large amounts of money and benefiting the future, and current expenditures."

As to the projects of extraordinary improvements, like the filtration plant, sewage-disposal system, the District building, and others, which elsewhere would be provided for by the issue of bonds and not out of current revenues, the Commissioners maintain that provision should be made by advances from the United States Treasury, to be repaid within a limited time by a sinking fund, and with interest on the deferred payments. They maintain that current revenues should be devoted to current expenditures and to the sinking fund requirements. The Commissioners say, in the report:

Danger of Extortion.

"The increase of taxation, due to the triennial reassessment of real estate and to the new personal tax and license law, will provide a revenue ample to meet all current expenditures and provide adequately for sinking fund obligations. It would seem to be self-evident that extraordinary projects of improvements should not be paid out of the current revenues in the years when they are being executed. Future years should share the burden as well as the benefit of such improvement, and unless this course is taken either taxation must be made extortionate, or the current needs of the government and the people of the District of Columbia must go unsatisfied."

These figures, relating to the financial situation of the District, are taken from the report:

"Of the total amount of estimates submitted by the Commissioners for the next fiscal year, which was \$10,872,372 (exclusive of water fund appropriations), at least \$2,383,495 must be charged to the account of extraordinary improvements. Of this sum, \$1,468,495 is for the continuance of work on the filtration plant; \$565,000 is for the continuance of work on the sewage-disposal system; \$250,000 is to begin work on the municipal hospital, for which a site and plans have been provided by the Commissioners under the authority of Congress, and \$100,000 is for beginning a new and needed bridge in Connecticut Avenue. Not more than \$8,488,877 in the estimates is properly chargeable to current expenditures. As the total amount of money which ought to be available for District appropriations in the next fiscal year will be \$10,800,000, it will be seen that after meeting all current needs there would remain an ample fund for the requirements of the District's obligations to the United States Treasury, even if all that the Commissioners ask should be granted."

Commissioner Macfarland said yesterday: "The time has come when the state of the District's finances and the demands upon them must be considered with a view to a settlement that will cover at least a decade to come. An arrangement that will do away with this increasing burden can not be delayed. Congress must authorize the United States Treasury to make the advances suggested, permit a bond issue to meet the demands caused by extraordinary improvements, or adopt some equally beneficial measure to prevent taxation from becoming extortionate to the point of confiscation. A paragraph from the

annual report just issued will explain the position of the Board of Commissioners on this question:

"The Commissioners have always opposed departures in District appropriations from the 'half-and-half principle' of the organic act of 1878, and are gratified to believe that Congress proposes to adhere to that principle in future appropriations. The Commissioners have repeatedly stated to Congress that it would be better to wait for any improvement in the District of Columbia than to have the cost of it paid exclusively from the District revenues. They desire to reiterate that statement."

Among the bills which the Commissioners are urging for passage are two that were noticed by the President in his annual message to Congress. The first of these is to create a board for the condemnation of unsanitary buildings in the District. It was introduced at the first session of the Fifty-seventh Congress. The other is to regulate appointments and promotions in the municipal government of the District. Its effect is to create a local civil service bureau along the lines followed by the national Government.

Crusade Against Blind Alleys.

The first measure has two companion bills, one of which provides for the opening and closing of alleys and the opening of minor streets, and the other to provide for the abatement of nuisances. Both are offered with a view to bettering health conditions. In several blocks in Washington there are blind alleys leading into courts in which hundreds of persons are living. These alleys are narrow where they enter the street, but have no outlet on the opposite side of the blocks. The Commissioners believe that disease, if not crime, are bred in such places under such conditions.

The Commissioners are urging the passage of bills introduced at the last session of Congress, as follows: A measure to regulate electrical wiring. Under the present law the municipal authorities are unable to exercise control over this class of business.

To prevent vicious and evilly disposed persons from resorting to the District for the purpose of committing crime. This is a bill which Major Sylvester, Superintendent of Police, earnestly desires Congress to pass at the present session, inasmuch as under the existing law there is no manner in which the police authorities may hold a suspicious character, even though they receive absolute proof that he has intention of committing a crime.

Practice of veterinary medicine is not regulated by the District, and authority to take this business under control is asked in a bill introduced at the last session in response to a request from the Commissioners.

More than fifty bills are pending on the calendar of business of the Senate District Committee, but many of them relate to minor corrections of defects in the law.

SEDITIONARY SONG SUNG IN GERMAN REICHSTAG

Polish Members Hum "Not Yet Is Poland Lost" While Riot Reigns.

BERLIN, Dec. 6.—It has just leaked out that during Thursday's violent scenes in the Reichstag over the proposition to pass the tariff bill on bloc the Polish members sang in a subdued key the chorus of the Polish seditious air: "Not yet is Poland lost."

What to Do Until the Doctor Arrives.

"One of my children was taken with cramp colic and suffered severely," says E. B. Elze, of Monett, Mo. "I telephoned for a doctor, then gave a dose of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, and a few minutes later a second dose. Before the doctor came the child was relieved." For sale by Henry Evans, Wholesale and Retail, and all druggists.

BLUE FLEET SETS SAIL FROM CULEBRA ISLAND

Central Station on Island of St. Croix.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Dec. 6.—The "Blue," or defending fleet, under Rear Admiral Higginson, in the West Indian war games, sailed from Culebra Island yesterday morning. All the vessels did not go, Rear Admiral Coghlan, with the Vixen and Culgoa (supply ship), remaining behind.

Admiral Higginson, with the Kearsarge, Alabama, and Massachusetts, is sailing to the south of Vieques. The Indiana, which has been assigned to scouting duty is still farther south. The rest of the fleet is scattered.

Telegraphic and heliographic communication has been established along the whole coast of Porto Rico, under command of naval officers. The principal station is at Humacao Playa. The central station of the defending fleet is at Fredericksstad, Island of St. Croix.

BON MARCHE HOLIDAY PRESENTS

And a Few Things to Remember Concerning the Bon Marche Store.

Rich Wares, Things Unique, Unlimited Assortments, Endless Varieties, Shopping Comfort, Lowest Prices.

All Markable Goods from \$1 Up Engraved Free. All Leather Goods from \$1 up Stamped Free. All Boxable Goods Boxed Free.

These things will appeal to everybody who has shopping to do, and we have put forth every effort to attain the highest perfection in our selection of Holiday stocks, and in the arrangements for the busy selling season. We think we have succeeded and invite everybody to examine our colossal stock of XMAS PRESENTS.

Christmas Candies

Thousands of Pounds Daily to Supply the Demand.

We have a regular candy store on the first floor. No better assortment of Fine Candies can be found, and we are having a wonderful advance sale. We have THREE POPULAR ASSORTMENTS—12C, 19C, AND 29C. OUR 19C ASSORTMENT OF CHOCOLATE CREAMS includes Mint, Wintergreen, Orange, Lemon, Strawberry, Ice Cream Mountains, Tribby's, Crips, Molasses, Crumb Date, Fig, Marshmallow, Almond, Walnut, and Peanut Clusters. We also have Jellys, Cherry, and Pineapple Jellys, Assorted Gums and Rocks; Oriental Paste, including Orange, Lemon, Fig, Raspberry, and Cream de Menthe; Chocolate Wafers, Nonpareil and Cream Almonds; the pound special.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS SUPPLIED AT DISCOUNT FOR 25 POUNDS OR OVER; DELIVERED WHEN YOU WANT IT; HALF-POUND BOXES FURNISHED.

A Marvelous Collection of Choice Books

At Astoundingly Low Prices.

5,000 Cloth Bound Books by the world's best authors. Juvenile, Poetry, Fiction, etc.; fine ribbed cloth binding, large type, about 300 titles to select from, at 14c.

Large assortment of Religious Gift Books, bound in white and gold, leather, and silver, of the very best authors, Phillips, Brooks, Mrs. Haverall, Drummond, and others, regular 25c Books. Special price for Monday.

An immense lot of cloth bound copyright books by such authors as Marion Crawford, Paul Leicester Ford, Amelia Barr, E. P. Roe, Stephen Crane, and Gertrude Atherton. Regular 75c Books. Monday.

Magnificent Exhibition of Holiday Novelties—Second Floor.

This immense space is completely filled with the choicest gifts of every description, including Bric-a-Brac, Vases, Ornaments, Bonbon Boxes, Gold Jars, Comb and Brush Trays, Plaques, Decorated Plates, Toilet Sets, Gilded Ornaments, Mirrors, Candelsticks, Smokers' Sets, Smoking Tables, Ash Receivers, Cigar Jars, Tobacco Jars, Card Boxes, Inkstands, Paper Weights, Paper Cutters, Pen Trays, Thermometers, Calendars, Work Boxes, Trumble Trays, Pin Trays, Photograph Frames, Pictures, Fancy Baskets, Burnt Wood Novelties, and innumerable other appropriate Xmas Gifts.

SPECIAL TABLE NO 1 will contain a large lot of pretty Polish Brass Candelsticks, with fancy crepe paper shade in pink, green, red, and yellow—with shade holder and fancy colored candle to match—33c value at 18c.

A Regular Fairy's Carnival Our Doll Department.

Our new Doll Department on second floor is one of the most attractive spots in the entire store. This is our first season with this stock, and we have taken particular pains to make it an unqualified success. It is a very large and exclusive stock; every doll had to pass through examination before entering this Fairyland, and no scratched faces, blurred eyes, or imperfect joints can be found.

Our Introductory Special is a beautiful full jointed Doll with natural curly hair, light or dark, sewed wig, moving eyes, shoes and stockings. The regular selling price is \$1.39. Our special price is 98c.

Attractive Prices in Sterling Silver Novelties, Toilet Sets, &c—First Floor.

Child's Silver-plated Knife, 25c

Fork, and Spoon sets.....

Child's complete Table Sets, silver-plated knife, fork, and spoon, cup and napkin ring. Regular 48c

75c value.....

Plated Nut Cracker, with half doz. picks, in box.....

25c

Silver-plated Nut Cracker, with six nut picks to match, in hardwood case.....

69c

Special lot of German Silver Clothes Brushes, \$1.59 values, 98c

at.....

Cigar Jars, with heavy silver-plated top. \$1.50 value.....

98c

Fancy Metal-back Toilet Sets, comb, brush, and mirror.

From 98c to \$4.48 Set.

Ebony Comb and Brush Sets, silver-mounted, in fancy case \$1.48

at.....

Sterling Silver Novelties, manly-corns, darning, tooth brushes, shoe horns, &c. Worth 25c, at

19c

Large lot of Sterling Silver Novelties, the new French gray finish—are nice presents. Regular 36c value, at

49c

Sterling Silver Comb, Brush, and Mirror Sets, French gray finish. Regular \$6 value, at

\$4.99

All the Dainty Effects in Ladies' Xmas Neckwear.

Ruffs, Capes, Chiffon Muffs, Fancy Stocks, Lace Collars, Jabots, Lace Ties, and Fancy Crepe Ties at Special Prices.

Unusual preparations have been made in this department, and the prettiest gifts imaginable can be had at very small cost.

As a leader for Monday will offer a lovely line of Ruffs—all silk net, with long pleated ends, in black, and black and white. Regular \$2.98 \$1.98 values at.....

Special lot of Fine Lace Collars, Stocks, and Fancy Crepe Ties, 39c

in black, white, and colors. Regular 50c values.....

Our store is famous for Handkerchief values. Two special lots will be offered tomorrow:

Lace-trimmed, Hemstitched, Embroidered Initials, and Embroidered Scalloped Linen Handkerchiefs. Special

25c

Lot Lace-trimmed and Embroidered Scalloped Handkerchiefs, in

60 different styles. Special

12 1/2c

Watches as Acceptable Gifts.

Of course, our Jewelry Department is only one of a great many departments, but it is none the less a JEWELRY STORE for that reason. The great advantage of a department store is that one department helps the other and brings the price to a very low standard. You will find this true at the BON MARCHE JEWELRY STORE. With larger space we have been enabled to enlarge this department. We have just added WATCHES to the stock, and will offer

Four Great Watch Specials for Xmas.

Special No. 1.

This beautiful Enamelled Chate-laine Watch, with pin to match, put up in handsome velvet case, will make the best kind of present. Regular price, \$8.50. OUR SPECIAL PRICE—complete,

\$5.98

Special No. 2.

A special lot of Boys' Silver Watches, either open face or hunting case; warranted as good timekeepers. Regular price, \$7.50. OUR SPECIAL PRICE for Xmas,

\$4.98

Special No. 3.

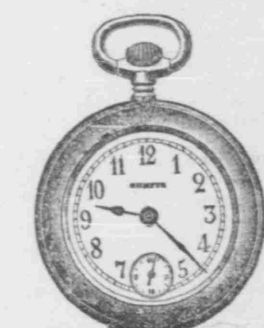
A fine 14-karat Gold-filled Chate-laine Watch in 20-year warranted plain, chased, or engine-turned case—perfect timekeepers. Regular price, \$15.00. OUR SPECIAL PRICE for Xmas,

\$10.98

Special No. 4.

The above cut represents the greatest Watch bargain ever offered. A very fine Silver Chate-laine Watch, reliable timekeeper, and just the thing for present. Regular price, \$4.00. OUR SPECIAL PRICE for Xmas,

\$2.69



BON MARCHE, 314-320 Seventh Street.